



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants :

Tsukasa HASHINO et al.

Serial No. :

10/659,231

Filed

September 10, 2003

For '

ENCODING METHOD AND APPARATUS

Art Unit

2631

745 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10151 Tel. (212) 588-0800

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 6, 2004

Bruno Polito, Reg. No. 38,580
Name of Applicant, Assignee or
Registered Representative

Signatûre

February 6, 2004
Date of Signature

<u>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT</u> <u>UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)</u>

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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In compliance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.56, applicants are filing this Information Disclosure Statement and the accompanying form PTO-1449 along with copies of the prior art therein identified. Such prior art has come to the attention of applicants by being cited in a Search Report issued



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in the corresponding European application on December 18, 2003. So far as applicants are aware, this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the documents identified herein constitute prior art to the present application.

Please charge any fees incurred by the filing of this document or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP Attorneys for Applicants

Bv.

Bruno Polito

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